

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00394 051620Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7322
INFO USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0394

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MT, US
SUBJECT: US MILITARY BAND FOR MALTA

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A WRITTEN REQUEST FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF THE PRIME MINISTER, ALBERT AGIUS FERRANTE, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE MALTESE INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL (SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1977), FOR "AN AMERICAN ARMY BAND STATIONED IN GERMANY" TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FESTIVAL.

2. AGIUS FERRANTE INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ALSO HAS BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE A MILITARY BAND FOR THE FESTIVAL AND THAT IT IS PLANNED THAT BOTH BANDS WOULD PERFORM AT OPEN AIR CONCERTS IN THE CATHEDRAL SQUARE OF THE HISTORICAL CAPITAL CITY OF MDINA. THE SQUARE SEATS OVER 3,000 PEOPLE, AND SIMILAR CONCERTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY HELD THERE IN PREVIOUS YEARS. THE MALTESE WOULD COVER ALL LOCAL EXPENSES BUT NOT TRANSPORTATION.

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3. ALTHOUGH MINDFUL OF THE POSSIBLE COSTS AND OTHER LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT OVERALL U.S. INTERESTS IN MALTA WOULD BE ENHANCED BY RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO THIS REQUEST.

4. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT'S

CONCURRENCE IN EXPLORING THIS SUBJECT FURTHER WITH AGIUS FERRANTE, AND WITH THE POLADS IN GERMANY AND ITALY, TO ASCERTAIN IF SUCH A PROJECT IS FEASIBLE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ALSO WOULD SEEK TO DETERMINE IF A NAVY MUSICAL UNIT FROM ITALY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FOR THE FESTIVAL, INSTEAD OF AN ARMY BAND FROM GERMANY, SINCE THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS EXPENSIVE TO THE USG AS WELL AS MORE POLITICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED AS OUTLINED ABOVE. LAINGEN

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Message Attributes

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